

## ABSTRACT

A controllable optical switching module (OSM) has at least N optical inputs ( $i_1$  to  $i_N$ ) and at least N optical outputs ( $e_1$  to  $e_N$ ) for selectively switching through optical signals ( $os_1$  to  $os_N$ ), with a respective optical signal ( $os_1$  to  $os_N$ ) being able to be switched through from an optical input ( $i_1$  to  $i_N$ ) via a respective switching point (SP) in a switching matrix (SM) to an optical output ( $e_1$  to  $e_N$ ) using a control unit (CU). The order of the arrangement of the optical inputs ( $i_1$  to  $i_N$ ) is determined by virtue of the respective attenuation ( $A_1$  to  $A_N$ ) produced when the optical signals ( $os_1$  to  $os_N$ ) are switched through from an optical input ( $i_1$  to  $i_N$ ) via a switching point (SP) to an optical output ( $e_1$  to  $e_N$ ) increasing or decreasing from the first to the Nth optical input ( $i_1$  to  $i_N$ ).